

April

Magic Lantern Society
of the United States and Canada



LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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Click slide to see variety of different slide makers



The Magic Lantern Calendar – April 2023

Events

May 18, 2023, *The Magic Lantern Show*, St. Mary's Music Hall, 8 church End, London, UK.

July 6-9, 2023, *Alice in Wonderland*, real vintage magic lantern show using a rare complete set of projector slides from 1905, Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road, Northampton, NN6 6DT UK.

Exhibits

Through Dec. 2026, *The Story of the Moving Image*, includes shadow puppets, Victorian-era magic lanterns, original cameras and more, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Fed Square, Melbourne, Australia <https://www.acmi.net.au/whats-on/story-of-the-moving-image-exhibition/>.

Ongoing, *The Path to Cinema: Highlights from the Richard Balzer Collection*, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles CA USA. 9,000 magic lantern objects collected by former MLS president Richard Balzer. <https://www.academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/path-to-cinema>

Ongoing, *From Shadows to Film...and all the magic in between!* Kent Museum of the Moving Image, Stanhope Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6AD UK <https://www.kentmomi.org/>

Online

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Thursday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.

See Edward Curtis Slides Here

The Morgan Library & Museum

Edward S. Curtis Lantern Slides

<https://www.themorgan.org/collection/edward-curtis/slides/images>



Photographer: Edward S. Curtis
Title: On Spokane River
A group on horseback rest at a bend in the Spokane River.
Created: ca. 1910.



Information About Prof. J. Har Base

From Deb Daubert

deb@chiefchip.com

Hello, I am doing research on Prof. J. Har (James Harvey) Basel (1859-1951) who between 1879-1927 was active in several states, especially Kansas and Wisconsin where he had homes. From old newspapers I have been able to find he started being a traveling singing master for singing schools which progressed into more elaborate productions that included special lighting and opticals such as dissolving scenes. Eventually in 1897 he added silent movies with them and gave lectures to go along with them. It sounds to me like he must have been combining the use of magic lanterns, projectoscopes and gramophones along with live presentations to give these performances that often included local talent too.

Have you ever heard of Prof. J. Har. Basel? Am I correct in assuming many were combining the different methods to put on shows like moving lantern slides and silent movie clips? Any help, advice and direction would be greatly appreciated. I am conducting this research on behalf of the Butte des Morts Historical Preservation Society

Deb Daubert

From David Evans

Hello Deb

Thank you for contacting us.

I don't personally have any information on Prof Basel, but it is quite possible that one or more of our members may have something.

We will add your enquiry to our next e-publication (April) that goes to all our members and hope that someone may come up with something. It was quite popular for lantern lecturers to include early movie presentations to their shows once they became available, so your surmise may well be correct. I think live music was used wherever possible, as the sound quality of early gramophones was poor, at least until the mid-1920s, though they may have been used as novelties at times. More serious music would have been available from church and other choirs and musicians back then.

Let us hope for some positive results.

David Evans

**Looking for
information
about
this performer**

Can You Identify This?

Mike Elizalde

mikeelizalde@gmail.com



Hello, does anyone in your organization know anything about this particular lantern (manufacturer, style, model number, etc.)? Much obliged for any info.

Many thanks,

From David Evans

Hello Mike

Thank you for contacting us.

Yes - Enterprise Optical Co of Chicago, sold by, amongst others, Harbach & Co of Philadelphia in about 1900. They called it Single Champion Magic Lantern, price \$15.00.

Hope that helps!

David Evans

Mike Elizalde
President/Artistic Director
Spectral Motion, Inc.
www.spectralmotion.com

Wow! Thanks so much for this information. This came to me in shambles as a gift from the late Ricky Jay's widow. My team restored it but nobody knew its origins. Thank you so much!

Regards,



Parts Wanted for Ideal Lantern

From David Evans

Basically, Does anyone have a front (objective lens, slide carrier etc) for it?

Please contact
David Evans
dwinwoodevans@aol.
com if you have any
information or parts.

Thanks!
David



DWinwoodEvans@aol.com



Lantern Show at the D&H Canal Museum

<https://www.canalmuseum.org/events/magic-lantern>

Joel Schlemowitz and Dawn
Elliot's Magic Lantern Show

7:30pm – 9:10pm

D&H Canal Historical Society

1315 Rte 213

High Falls **SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 AT 4:30 PM PDT**
United States

LECTURE
SERIES

<https://www.facebook.com/events/214187107813124>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



photo by Rose Callahan www.rosecallahan.com

<https://www.facebook.com/ElliottSchlemowitzMagicLanternists>
Elliott & Schlemowitz, Magic Lanternists

Show at The Philosophical Research Society

From Matthew Schnittker

For anyone interested, here was my setup for last night's, March 24 Magic Lantern show at the The Philosophical Research Society. I ran two lanterns, each with a Darlot 8.5" Petzval lens.

The projector on the right is a McAllister with the original 400W Mazda bulb. For a dimmer, I used my Homebrew Variac that I use to test out old vacuum tube radios. It worked

wonderfully as a dimmer for the high wattage lamp. The Lantern on the left is my main lantern with a 9W PR style LED bulb and a 12V battery. Brightness was similar. As we were presenting on Zoom, my Son used a Digital Keyboard this time for accompaniment.



Imagination Delivered: A Box of Make Believe

<https://www.museumofmakebelieve.org/diary/imagination-delivered-a-box-of-make-believe>

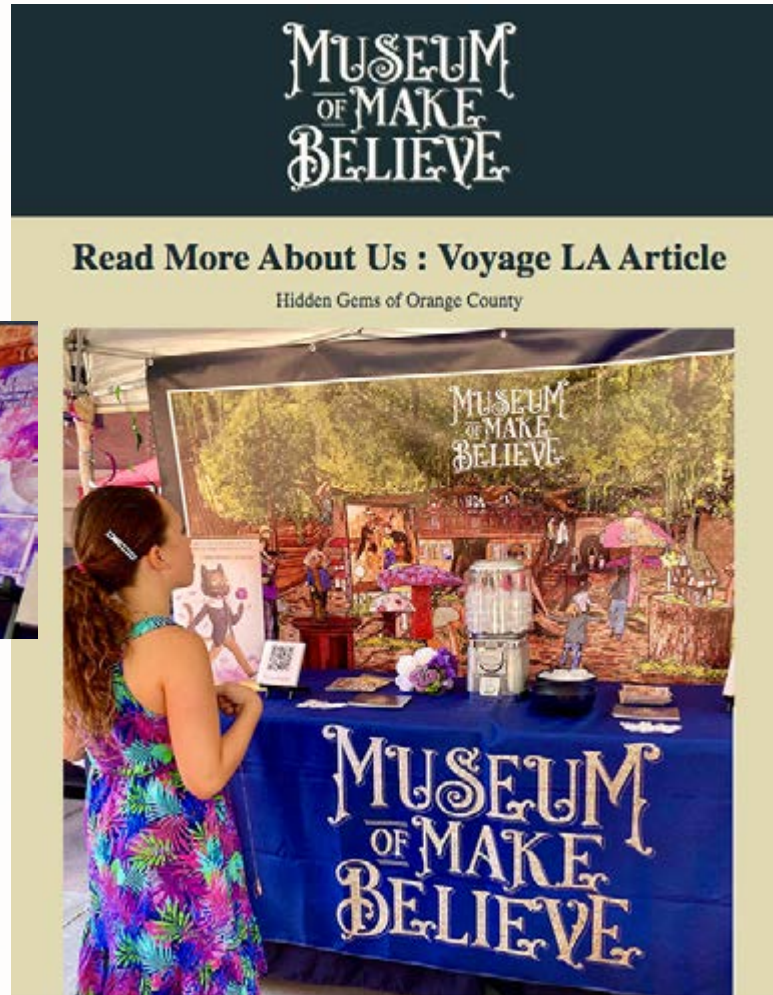
From Terry Borton

Hi All,

Here's a shadow theater project put together by an erstwhile member of our group. Quite a project!

Best,

Terry



In 2022, we were generously awarded a project impact grant from the California Arts Council. For this grant project, we had a vision of bringing a bit of the Museum of Make

Believe directly into people's homes and providing hands-on arts projects. First, we worked with our wonderful designer from Creative Blue Yonder to create a box that could be transformed into a piece of art.

Each box turns into a beautiful shadow puppet theater complete with red velvet curtains and charming silhouette puppets that tell an original fairy tale.



Please see more of the
Museum of Make Believe
on P-10



Glass Negatives/Slides



From Mark Farber
farbonium18@aol.com

Good Day,

I find that it is time for me to liquidate a rather unique collection of glass negatives and glass slides.

After some 'web browsing' I thought you would be the best site to explore my options. I have 2 basic



sets; the first is of glass negatives from the Columbia Naval Parade on the Hudson River in August of 1893. There are shots of Central Park, Manhattan, West Point etc. There are also ones of the Columbus Parade, a year earlier. The shots are very rare when it comes to West Point as it shows the 22nd. Brigade with woman holding rifles! (I really have done a bit of research)

From David Evans

Good Day Mark

Thank you for contacting us. They sound like they are historically significant, though of course one doesn't know how many sets were produced at the time, so they may or may not necessarily be rare these days.

David Evans



continued next page

Glass Negatives/Slides For Sale continued



The slide collection are mostly the Passion Play and made by a number of manufacturers, McIntosh Battery and T. H. McAllister as well as some others. I also have a few by Edw. L. Wilson of shots in Jerusalem. I believe the slides are from the 1880's.

Would you be kind enough to let me know your thoughts.

My name is Mark Farber, I reside in Connecticut and my cell is 305.450.2768 or to the above email address.

Thank you for your consideration.
Mark

Members Reflect on The Magic Lantern Performer's Group

By Terry Borton

What's the Magic Lantern Performers' Group all about?

Two years ago I formed this little Zoom group, which has been meeting for an hour on Wednesday evenings (7:00 EDT), every other week. Some members have many years of performing experience, and some have none. Some members do "traditional" magic-lantern re-enactment; others experiment with using this antique medium in modern ways. Our basic format is that a member does a little show segment, and the others give feedback. There is also a lot of sharing outside of the meeting—tips, slides, background material, etc.

Here's what some of the members say about the meetings.

I am delighted to feel so welcomed in the group. No one suggests that my frankly naive questions are silly, but just pitch in to help answer them. Sandra Lawrence

I've been presenting magic lantern shows for nearly 40 years, but there's rarely a meeting of the Performers' Group that doesn't inspire me with new ideas and approaches. Larry Rakow

The weekly meeting that I actually look forward to. It's like an improv class, acting class, toastmasters, and Magic Lantern master course all in one—a wonderful, safe space to try performing your shows before they fall into the public eye. Matt Schnittker

It's such a bright spot in my life when I'm able to attend meetings and see everyone's projects. There's no competitiveness, which is so rare in my life. The feedback and ideas are so fun and it's great to see everyone growing as performers. Dawn Elliot

My biggest takeaway is the incredible wealth of knowledge that is freely shared in a caring community that is committed to the art and craftsmanship of story making and storytelling. I am very grateful for each meeting. Ed Murray

If you'd like to visit the Group and see what it's like, you'll be most welcome. Send me an email at tborton@magiclanternshows.com and I'll put you on the notice list.



From Museum of Make Believe



<https://www.museumofmakebelieve.org/diary/magiclanternsinhisblood>



As a Museum our mission is to preserve the sacred art of storytelling and its intersection with visual arts. It is no surprise that we are fascinated by the lure of magic lanterns. There is something particularly appealing about imagining the early 1700's in which you could find a magic lanternist meandering around a village with one of these early projectors strapped to their backs. If you were lucky enough to see a show, the lantern would be lit with the flickering light of a single candle as you watched the hand-painted slides appear before you, wispy and otherworldly, with the lanternist dramatically telling you the tale



We were fortunate enough to get a chance to talk with Terry Borton, a fourth-generation lanternist, who has been performing magic lantern shows professionally for more than 25 years. In 1992, he formed a professional troupe, The American Magic-Lantern Theater and they perform shows all over the world! NPR has called it “a living national treasure”. Terry also created and curates The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows. He authored a book about a magic lantern artist called, “Before the Movies: American Magic Lantern Entertainment and the Nation’s First Great Screen Artist, Joseph Boggs Beale”.

Please enjoy our conversation!



Visual Studies Workshop Collections Still Images Lantern Slide Collection



Photograph from the Still Image Archive. Several lantern slides on display.



T. Ikeda

<https://www.vsw.org/collections/still-images/lantern-slide-collection/>

The VSW Lantern Slide Archive houses a collection of over 60,000 nineteenth and early twentieth century glass lantern slides and related equipment.

The slides cover a wide range of subjects and were primarily used for educational purposes. The VSW holdings include slides from the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences Department of Visual Education, The Pratt Institute, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, the Museum of Modern Art, the New York State Education Department Visual Instruction Division and the Keystone View Company.



New York State Education Department

A Big Thank You to the following:

contributing to this months issue.

Terry Borton Mark Farber
Deb Daubert Lindsay Lamber
Mike Elizalde Matthew Schnittker
David Evans

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a
collection of images you would like to
share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry



As Seen On



From Lindsay Lambert
m.lindsaylambert@gmail.com

Dear David,

I just noticed a book by Stephen
Orr, *The Lanternist*, on eBay. It's
written for young adults and the
link is below.

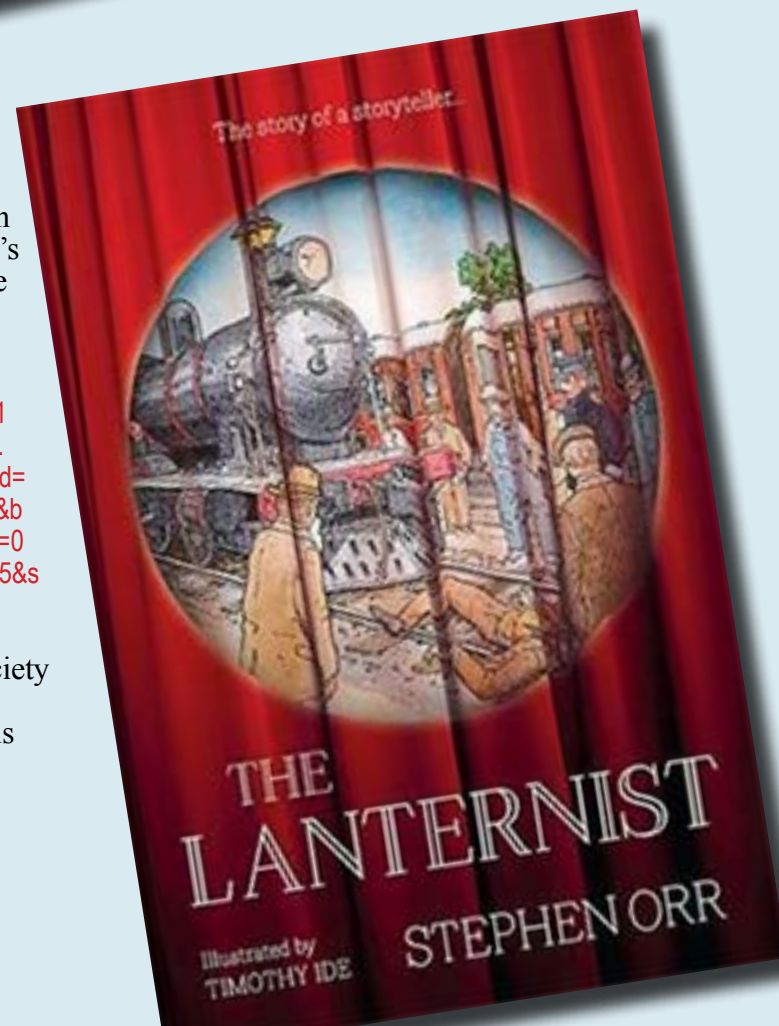
<https://www.ebay.ca/itm/144989687415?mkevt=1&mkpid=0&emsid=e11021.m43.l1120&mkcid=7&ch=osgood&euid=dd184f9f35ea4167b1fa6dd32c6ff4e3&bu=44245599805&ut=RU&exe=0&ext=0&osub=-1%7E1&crd=20230316060115&seaname=11021>

It might be something that Society
members would like to know
about! The listing description is
quite good.

Best wishes,

Lindsay.

Book For Sale



The Lanternist by Stephen Orr (English) Paperback Book

Condition: Brand New

Price: AU \$28.14

Quantity: 10 available / 1 sold

Approximately C \$25.67